

Division of Aquatic Resources
 Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
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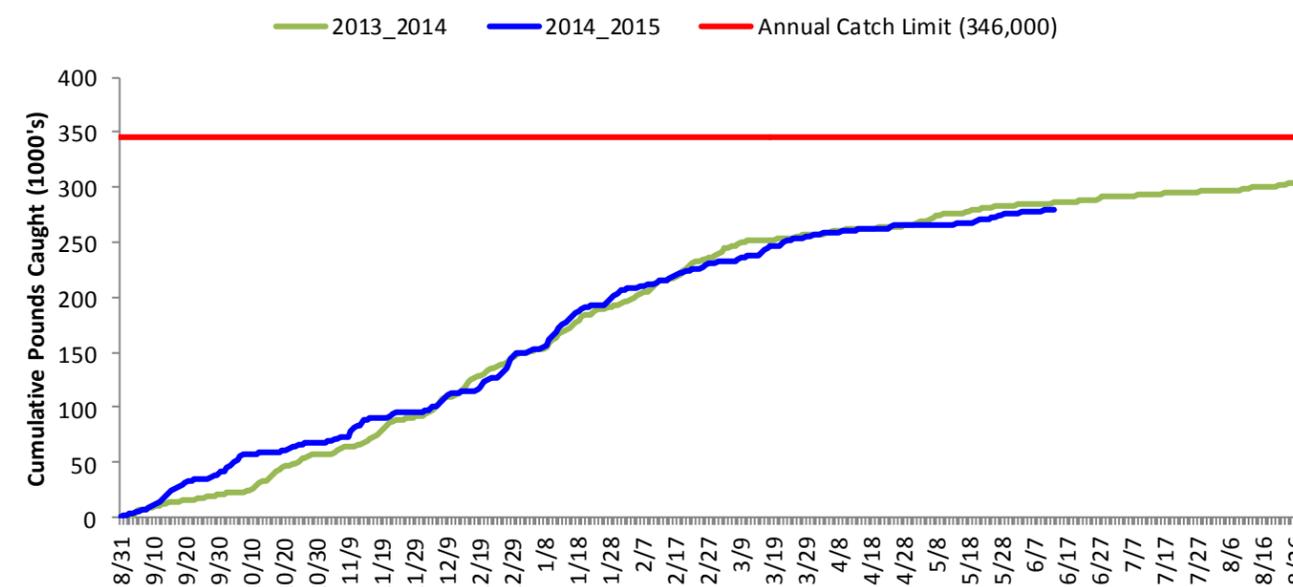
June 2015

BOTTOMFISH NEWS



Comparison of the current MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish fishing year with 2013-2014 Landings

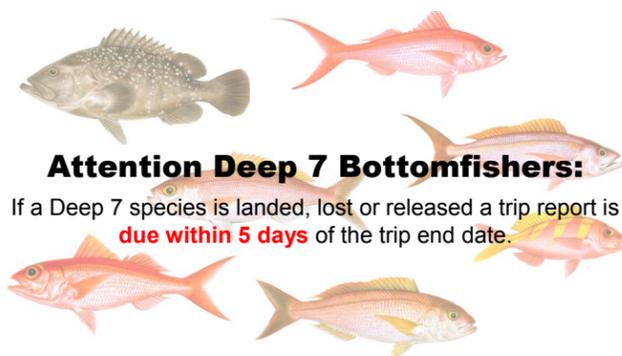
Comparison of MHI Total Deep 7 Landings from 2013 to Present
 (Reported and Processed as of 06/15/2015)



| Fishing Year | Number of Fishers | Sum of Landings | Number of Trips | Percent of ACL |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2013-2014 | 423 | 310,314 | 3,174 | 89.7 |
| 2014-2015* | 393 | 279,505 | 2,539 | 80.8 |

*Fishing year is still open until August 31, 2015

As of June 15, 2015, commercial bottomfish fishers landed 279,505 pounds of Deep 7 bottomfish, or 80.8 % of the 346,000 annual catch limit (ACL) for the current federal fishing year, which began on September 1, 2014, and ends on August 31, 2015. In comparison to the previous federal fishing year, the bottomfish landings were slightly higher for most of the year until spring 2015 when bottomfishing usually tapers off. Commercial fishers remarked that the size of the bottomfish were larger again this year. At the pace of the bottomfish landings for the current year, it appears that the fishery will remain open until August 31, 2015. The bottomfish fishery will re-open on September 1, 2015 with a new ACL that is being determined at the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council's 163rd Meeting in June 2015. A big mahalo goes out to all commercial bottomfish fishers who submit accurate and timely trip reports. Your diligence and cooperation is appreciated!



Attention Deep 7 Bottomfishers:

If a Deep 7 species is landed, lost or released a trip report is **due within 5 days** of the trip end date.

- Bottomfish trip reports are due within 5 days of trip end.
- Late trip reports are subject to a fine.
- Reports can be entered online: dlnr.ehawaii.gov/cmls or using a paper form, please call (808) 587-0109 for a trip report book or visit your local DAR office.



Dear Commercial Bottomfish fishers and dealers-Please let us know what kind of information is useful to you. We welcome your feedback! Any feedback about the newsletter, positive or negative, is greatly appreciated! **PLEASE CALL Statistical unit staff member, Jessica Miller at (808) 587-0594 or e-mail**

bottomfish@hawaii.gov. Mahalo! - DAR Statistical Unit

Thank you to everyone for your ideas and assistance in editing the Bottomfish Newsletter Volume 18!

A special thanks to: Reginald Kokubun, Eric Yokomori, and Dieter Stelling.

Editor: Jessica Miller

Bottomfish Vessel Registration Renewal Reminder

Bottomfish vessel renewal notices will be mailed at the end of June 2015. Current bottomfish vessel registrations (BFVR) are valid until August 31, 2015 or when the ACL is reached. In the unlikely event that the ACL is reached before August 31, 2014 all Bottomfish vessel registrants will be notified by mail. BFVRs for the 2015-2016 fishing can be renewed online at dlnr.gov, by mail, or at

your local DAR office beginning July 1, 2015



A review of the meetings held in December 2014

In December 2014, Division of Aquatic Resources staff and Western Pacific Regional Council staff held meetings in Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. Staff presented possible rule changes and asked fishers to fill out surveys recording their views on

the different topics. Meetings will be held this summer as a follow up to December's meetings to present the survey results. Meeting schedules will be mailed to all commercial marine license holders and Bottomfish Vessel Registrants.

Reporting Outreach

A postcard is being mailed to all commercial fishers this month to outreach the proper way to report hours fished based on the definition in the report books. As another part of this outreach, DAR plans to hold meetings at the end of the summer or early Fall to provide fishers outreach on how to properly fill out commercial fishing reports. Fishers have made DAR and NOAA staff aware that hours fished is not being properly reported. The definition in DAR fishing report books state that hours fished is "fishing gear soak time." NOAA scientists currently use the day fished when calculating Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) which is used to determine the stock assessment of the Deep 7 Bottomfish fishery. If fishers report hours fished as "fishing gear soak time" consistently, hours fished could be used in the stock assessment rather than day fished which would improve the accuracy of the CPUE. A NOAA stock assessment scientist will be present at these meetings as well to answer questions. In addition to hours fished there are other fish report instructions that have been overlooked or misinterpreted.

The postcard also addresses reporting overnight trips, the definition in the report book is for overnight trips less than 24 hours, enter the day of the month when the trip began. Some fishers have mentioned that the introduction of the online report caused them to split their trips into two days. Please follow the report book instructions and do not split up overnight trips that are less than 24 hours regardless if submit your trips on paper or online.

Another outreach topic that will be discussed at the meetings later this year is that as a commercial fisher, you are required to report everything that you land, not just what you sell. If you go out on a trip and do not catch anything, please report it as a no catch report ensuring that your effort has been reported.

Notifications will be mailed about the meetings later this year. If you have reporting questions, please email bottomfish@hawaii.info or call 808-587-0084. Mahalo for your reporting effort!

What is happening with the BRFAs?

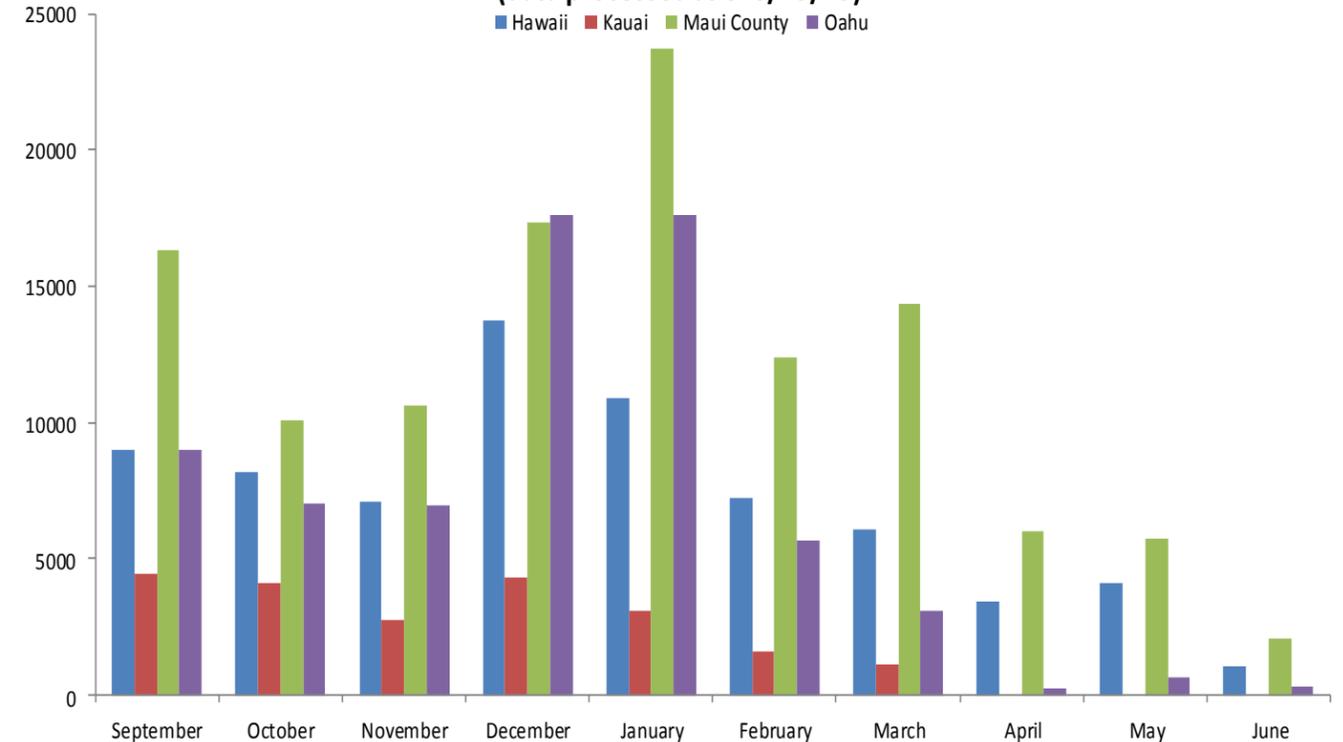
At this time, all BRFAs remain closed. Former chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), William Aila Jr., had worked with DAR staff on a plan to open six of the existing Bottomfish Restricted Areas. DAR staff, accompanied by Council staff, conducted meetings in December 2014 where the plan to open six BRFAs was presented and fishers were given an opportunity to express their feelings about the BRFAs in a survey. Currently, DAR does not have an Admin-

istrator. DAR staff intends to meet with the newly appointed DLNR chairperson, Suzanne Case, and present the survey results and further discuss the plan to open the six BRFAs and make a decision on whether or not to continue with the plan or consider revising the current plan.

Mahalo to those who attended and filled out the surveys. The results will be posted on the DAR website soon.

Comparison of the 2014-2015 Fishing year by Island

MHI Deep 7 Landings (Lbs.) from September 2014 to Present
(data processed as of 6/15/15)



Mahalo nui loa

After close to eight years working with the data management for the Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 bottomfish fishery I will be leaving my position and my family and I are moving to the mainland.

It has been wonderful working with you over the years. Thank you for your support and tremendous effort in reporting timely and accurately over the years. Jessica Miller